



# HOUSING NEWS

★ KEEPING HOUSING ISSUES IN THE FOREFRONT ★

## COLUMBIA VA WORKING AGGRESSIVELY ON HOMELESS VETERANS' ISSUES

My guess is that the little stuff doesn't get Denise Heet down. In addition to her position as Homeless Veterans Coordinator at Harry S. Truman Memorial VA Hospital in Columbia, Denise also represents Veterans' Affairs on the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness. We caught up with each other by telephone and she informed me that she was at that moment sitting in the dark because her building had no power. But a small matter like no light or air conditioning (it was a cool day, fortunately) didn't prevent her from sharing what's going on at the Columbia VA in the critical area of veterans who are homeless.

Each year Veterans' Affairs conducts a survey of homeless veterans in the areas surrounding VA hospital facilities. Called the [CHALENG survey](#) (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups), the 2006 results indicated there were 100 homeless veterans in the Columbia area who had also experienced mental illness and/or drug or alcohol abuse. That number, the survey points out, does not include other homeless veterans who may have a disabling medical condition.



How is the VA addressing this urgent need? With Denise's help, the Columbia VA Hospital has engaged in a significant amount of collaboration with local agencies and even local landlords to help house homeless veterans and get them the mental health services they need too.

The VA will soon be opening two transitional housing programs in Columbia for homeless veterans. The first will be two brand new duplex units housing a total of eight people who will be going through Veterans' Affairs Compensated Work Therapy program (CWT). CWT is a vocational rehabilitation program that strives to match disabled work-ready veterans with local employers in competitive-wage jobs.

The second project is also a transitional housing program, with the VA partnering with [Phoenix Programs](#) of Columbia and a local Columbia landlord to provide individual rental housing for nine people using a \$96,000 per-diem grant from the VA. This project will be specifically for veterans who are dually diagnosed (having both mental illness and substance abuse diagnoses). Denise says the VA has contracts to temporarily house clients with the Salvation Army and other local

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agencies, but the cost of such housing comes directly out of the Hospital's budget, making it difficult to do long-term; but the separate grant funds will enable clients to stay housed and get the services they need for up to two years.

Denise is also involved in hiring a new position that will specialize in working with veterans coming out of incarceration who need housing assistance.

Denise Heet can be contacted at Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital, 800 Hospital Drive, Columbia, MO, 65203; at 573-814-6654 or 1-800-349-8262; by fax at 573-814-6493; or at [denise.heet@va.gov](mailto:denise.heet@va.gov). DMH Housing wishes Denise and Veterans' Affairs the best of luck in these worthy upcoming endeavors!



**Consolidated Plan Public Meetings Set (and YOUR VOICE COUNTS!)**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the state of Missouri to publish a Consolidated Plan every five years. The State of Missouri Consolidated Plan is only relevant for non-entitlement areas of the state – cities less than 50,000 in population and counties less than 200,000 in population. Entitlement areas with populations greater than that, such as Kansas City, St. Louis, St. Louis County, St. Charles, Springfield, Joplin, St. Joseph and Columbia, are responsible for preparing their own Consolidated Plans.

This plan includes an assessment of housing, community development and economic development needs, state priorities and a five-year strategy to address those needs. The Action Plan focuses on the

intended use of HUD funds for 2008. The following Block Grant programs are covered in the Consolidated Plan:

- [CDBG](#)—Community Development Block Grant
- [HOME](#)
- [HOPWA](#)—Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS
- [ESG](#)—Emergency Shelter Grant Funds

It also details program funds that are applied for through the Continuum of Care process—Shelter Plus Care, Supported Housing Program, and SRO Mod Rehab, (Single Room Occupancy Moderate Rehabilitation). These programs are competitive and not block granted.



The [Missouri Department of Economic Development](#) will publish drafts of the Five Year Plan for 2008-2012 and an Action Plan for 2008 on or around November 1, 2007. Copies will be available for review at public libraries, Community Action Agencies and Regional Planning Commissions. Public input will be solicited through December 15, 2007. Public meetings are scheduled as follows:

- November 5, 2007, 2:00 p.m. , Jefferson City
- November 6, 2007, 9:00 a.m., Hannibal
- November 6, 2007, 2:00 p.m., Chillicothe

- November 13, 2007, 3:00 p.m., Cape Girardeau
- November 14, 2007, 11:00 a.m., Springfield

Locations have not yet been confirmed. Once available, they will be posted on the [DMH Housing web site](#).

**Public comments, made either at a public hearing or submitted in writing or by telephone, do affect how this money is spent.**

Participation by providers and consumers of mental health services and by housing advocates is especially important because it can increase awareness of housing needs and redirect or strengthen current spending.

DMH consumers and service providers may wish to raise some of the following ideas in their comments:

- CDBG should restore the Innovative Housing Projects Category; it is one of the few resources available to match funds for HUD McKinney and Housing Trust funded projects that create safe havens and other permanent housing programs for low-income people with disabilities.
- Funding applications should have a set deadline, not an open cycle. Having an open cycle means everyone applies April 1<sup>st</sup> and the money is expended by April 2<sup>nd</sup>. So even if a project applies for funding under the "Other Public Needs" category, by the time they've been awarded other grant funds and need CDBG for match, the money is gone.
- Housing is community and economic development.




Affordable housing reduces and prevents homelessness. CDBG funds can help meet the needs for safe, decent and affordable housing for disabled and low-income citizens in Missouri.

- The Five Year Plan should address the impact of foreclosures on the housing market and how they might affect the availability of affordable rental housing in the state, not just the effects of foreclosures on the home ownership market.

Comments can be made in writing to: Andy Papen, Department of Economic Development, P.O. Box 118, Jefferson City MO 65102, or email [andy.papen@ded.mo.gov](mailto:andy.papen@ded.mo.gov). You may also phone 573-751-3600 and submit verbal comments.



If you would like more information about the Consolidated Plan and its importance to the disability community, you may [contact any of the DMH Housing staff](#).

You may also visit the Technical Assistance Collaborative website at [www.tacinc.org](http://www.tacinc.org) and read *Piecing It All Together: Playing the Housing Game*. The TAC web site is very helpful in explaining why the Consolidated Plan is important to the disability community, and provides questions and issues to present at a public hearing or submit in writing. 

## Need to Know: IRS Changing the Way Non-Profits Report Their Income

Missouri's tax-exempt charitable and advocacy organizations should be aware that the IRS is in the process of changing the form on which those agencies file their federal income returns. The changes the IRS has proposed are currently scheduled to take effect for returns filed in 2009 for the 2008 tax year.



On June 14, 2007, the IRS announced a proposed draft of a new Form 990, "Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax", and held a public comment period that ended on September 14, 2007. The IRS web site describes this change as a "significant redesign" of the form which will enhance transparency, promote tax compliance, and minimize the burden on filing organizations.

Per the IRS website:


"The redesigned Form 990 consists of a 10-page core form to be completed by each Form 990 filer. In addition, the redesigned form's 15 schedules are designed to require reporting of information only from those organizations that conduct particular activities.

"Most organizations will not experience a material change in burden, while those with complicated compensation arrangements, related entity

structures, and activities that raise compliance concerns, may see an increase in the effort required to provide information.

"Among the highlights of the new form are the following:

- "A summary page providing the organization's identifying information and a snapshot of the organization's key financial, compensation, governance, and operational information.
- "A portion of the form requiring governance information including the composition of the board, and certain other governance and financial statement practices.
- "Schedules that will focus reporting on certain areas of interest to the public and the IRS: fundraising, compensation, hospitals, tax exempt bonds and non-cash charitable contributions."

Form 990 applies to agencies who are tax-exempt under Sections 501(c), 527, and 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code. Any agency who files a Form 990 should educate itself on these pending changes. The IRS web site has an [article](#) that includes a comprehensive set of links regarding the subject, including all public comments submitted. 

## Funding News \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

**Maxwell Awards of Excellence to Recognize Outstanding Supportive Housing Developments**

**Deadline: October 31, 2007**



The [Fannie Mae Foundation](#), in collaboration with the [Partnership to End Long Term Homelessness](#), seeks applicants for the seventeenth annual Maxwell Awards of Excellence Program.

The program seeks to identify, recognize, and showcase the outstanding work of nonprofit and for-profit organizations in developing and maintaining affordable housing. The program also encourages other corporations and foundations to become funding or investment partners in these endeavors.



The program will make four awards to nonprofit and for-profit organizations to recognize outstanding development of supportive and affordable housing for homeless individuals and families. Each 2007 Maxwell Award recipient will receive a \$75,000 grant to continue its work in the field of supportive and affordable housing for homeless individuals and families.

Organizations from across the United States are invited to submit applications for projects. For more information and/or an application form, visit the program's Web site.

**Link:**  
<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10008963/2007maxwell>



## A Resource Guide for the St. Joseph Area

The Homeless Services Coalition of St. Joseph has put together a list of community services available in the St. Joseph area. Many of the services are related to housing and homelessness, but the list is comprehensive and includes other services likely to be needed by people at risk of homelessness. An expanded version of this information will appear on the DMH Housing web site in the near future.

For information and referral, call Community Services at:  
 816-364-1131 or 800-365-7724

### **What do you need?**

#### **Rent/Mortgage & Utilities**

InterServ (call for an appointment)	(816) 232-7779
Catholic Charities	(816) 232-2885
Community Action Partnership (utilities)	(816) 233-8281
Salvation Army	(816) 233-8606
Shelter Plus Care Program (restrictions apply regarding eligibility)	(573) 526-3125 Call for details

#### **Housing Assistance**

St. Joseph Housing Authority	(816) 236-8200
ABCD Public Housing Agency	(816) 233-4250
Northwood Terrace Apartments	(816) 232-3921
Oak Ridge Apartments	(816) 279-2784
Pleasant Heights Apartment Complex	(816) 233-0383

#### **Emergency Shelter**

Salvation Army	(816) 233-8606
YWCA (domestic violence shelter: women & children)	(816) 232-4481 (800) 653-1477
Noyes Home for Children	(816) 232-5650

#### **Employment**

Missouri Career Center	(816) 387-2380
Vocational Rehabilitation	(816) 387-2280
IMKO (temporary employment)	(816) 233-4040
Alpha Staffing (temporary employment)	(816) 364-0066
Kelly Services (temporary employment)	(816) 233-3411
Staffing Center (temporary employment)	(816) 676-0303

#### **Food**

Open Door Food Kitchen	(816) 364-1085
Social Welfare Board (food pantry cards, food for diabetics)	(816) 233-5188
Community Services (food pantry referral)	(816) 364-1131
Meals on Wheels – (homebound seniors)	(816) 232-7779
Family Support Division (food stamps)	(816) 387-2000

#### **Clothing**

Salvation Army Thrift Store	(816) 232-5824
Community Services Clothes Closet	(816) 364-1131
St. Vincent DePaul	(816) 901-0381
Adventist Community Services	(816) 279-7262
Second Season Shop	(816) 279-9136
InterServ	(816) 238-4511
DAV Thrift Store	(816) 279-4900

**Continued on next page**

**Staples Foundation for Learning  
Offers Support for Education and  
Job Skills Programs**

**Deadline: December 7, 2007**

The mission of Staples Foundation for Learning is "to teach, train, and inspire." The foundation contributes funds to national and local charities that provide educational opportunities and job skills for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth.

To be eligible for consideration, applicant organizations must have nonprofit, tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and align with the Staples Foundation for Learning's mission and focus on job skills and education. The requested amount of each grant can be up to \$25,000. Most grants awarded by the foundation are in the \$5,000 to \$25,000 range.

Grant decisions will be made three times a year. The next deadline is December 7, 2007. Visit the foundation's Web site for complete program information and instructions on submitting an online application.

**Link:**

<http://www.staplesfoundation.org/>



**Family Counseling Opens  
New Safe Haven Project**

In the [May 2006 issue of Housing News](#), DMH Housing profiled Kennett-based [Family Counseling Center](#). Family Counseling Center has been a long-time partner with the Balance of State Continuum of Care in pursuing funding for ambitious supportive housing projects to serve disabled persons experiencing homelessness in its service areas in southern Missouri.

**St. Joseph Resource Guide—Continued from Page 4**

**Medical/Dental**

Social Welfare Board	(816) 233-5188
Northwest Health Services (sliding scale)	(816) 232-6818
Family Support Division (Medicaid)	(816) 387-2000

**Legal Assistance & Tenant Advocacy**

Legal Aid of Western Missouri	(816) 364-2325 (800) 892-2101
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**Adult Education & Literacy Assistance**

LIFT - MISSOURI	(800) 729-4443
Adult Education & Literacy (GED)	(816) 671-4020
Pass the Power	(816) 671-4025

**Transportation**

St. Joseph Transit (City Bus Service)	(816) 233-6700
Jefferson Bus Lines	(816) 364-0486

**Who are you?**

**Assistance to veterans**

Salvation Army (transportation to VA)	(816) 233-8606
American Red Cross (retirees only)	(816) 232-8439
Veteran's Employment Services	(816) 387-2380
Veterans Service Officer	(816) 387-2841
Vietnam Vet's of America Chapter #638	(816) 238-5511

**Assistance to parolees and ex-offenders**

Catholic Charities	(816) 232-2885
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**Assistance to people with HIV/AIDS**

Buchanan County Health Department	(816) 271-4725
Northwest Health Services	(816) 232-6818

**Assistance to people with mental retardation & developmental disabilities**

Albany Regional Center	(816) 387-2220
Progressive Community Services	(816) 364-3827
United Cerebral Palsy	(816) 304-3836

**Assistance to victims of domestic and sexual violence**

YWCA	(816) 232-4481
Legal Aid of Western Missouri	(816) 364-2325 (800) 892-2101

**Assistance for alcohol & drug abuse**

Family Guidance Center	(816) 236-2360
Catholic Charities (counseling)	(816) 232-2885

**Assistance to seniors**

InterServ	(816) 232-7779
Division of Senior Services	(816) 387-2100
Experience Works (Senior employment)	(816) 232-0056
Catholic Charities (air conditioners)	(816) 232-2885

**Assistance to people with mental illness**

Family Guidance Center	(816) 364-1501
Catholic Charities (counseling)	(816) 232-2885
The Center (counseling)	(816) 364-4300
Northwest Health Services (sliding scale)	(816) 232-6818
Heartland Regional Medical Center – Mental Health Unit	(816) 271-7273
Mental Health Crisis Line	(888) 279-8188




In May of 2006, Family Counseling was just about to break ground on a "safe haven" housing project: a facility with eight apartments and an array of supportive medical and mental health services designed to house men and women who are chronically homeless. As of this writing, the facility, called the SEMO Safe Haven, is up and running and is already serving five people. Anthony Smith, Family Counseling Center's Director of Housing and Vocational Services, says Family Counseling will host a grand opening of the facility on October 29, 2007. SEMO Safe Haven is located at 1201 Ely Road in Kennett.



SEMO Safe Haven, Kennett, MO

What's the next step for Family Counseling Center? Anthony Smith says they have purchased land adjacent to SEMO Safe Haven and will eventually apply for funds to build supportive rent-assisted housing for disabled persons on that land (also known as a HUD 811 project). In the immediate future, Family Counseling will apply for HUD funds to build another 811 project in Poplar Bluff.


For more information about Family Counseling Center and the new SEMO Safe Haven project, contact Anthony Smith at 573-888-5925. Congratulations to Family Counseling Center on their success in this important project! 



### **New Analysis of Census Data Finds 3.8 Million People Doubled Up for Economic Reasons**

There have been recent proposals to expand the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of homeless to include households that are doubled up for economic reasons. To assess the impact of this proposal, the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) (NAEH) has looked at how many people would be added to the homelessness population if the proposal were adopted. The result of the NAEH study shows that expanding the definition would increase the current homeless population (744,313 on any given night) by 3.8 million.

The amount that would have to be appropriated so that the amount of funding per homeless or doubled up person matched the actual amount of funding per homeless person in 2005 is \$7.725 billion.

To see the full study in PDF format, please visit the [NAEH web site](#). 

### **Call for Nominations: Celebrating the Outstanding Achievements of Missourians with Mental Health Challenges**

The Missouri Department of Mental Health will recognize three exceptional individuals who have demonstrated themselves as true "Champions" to the citizens of Missouri.

The first Mental Health Champions Celebration Committee is seeking nominations of individuals whose actions and accomplishments exemplify commitment and courage in an effort to make life better for themselves and others in their communities.

### **Judging and Selection**

Nominations will be reviewed and finalists chosen by a panel of judges from mental health care and related fields.

The Mental Health Champions Selection Committee will be looking for examples of how individuals with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse problems have overcome their challenges, whose actions and activities inspire others, and who are having positive impacts on their local communities. The decisions of the judges are final.



### **Award Presentation**

The winners will be honored at the first Mental Health Champions Banquet on April 16, 2008, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. The Department of Mental Health will provide transportation and will host each Champion and one guest at the dinner and at the hotel for a one-night stay. Winners, along with one companion, also will receive an expenses-paid trip to Branson, including lodging, meals, and tickets for shows.

### **Categories**

Persons may be nominated in one of three categories:

1. An individual with a diagnosed mental illness
2. An individual with a developmental disability




3. An individual in recovery from a substance or gambling addiction

Nominations must be received by the Department of Mental Health by **November 15, 2007**, and can be mailed to:

**Missouri Dept. of Mental Health  
CHAMPIONS Awards  
Office of Public Affairs  
1706 E. Elm Street  
P.O. Box 687  
Jefferson City, MO 65102**

or faxed to **573-526-4698**.

To see further details about the guidelines for nominating a Mental Health Champion and to obtain a nomination form, [please visit the Department of Mental Health web site](http://www.dmh.mo.gov/ada/housing/housingindex.htm). 



**Department of Mental Health  
Housing Team  
1706 East Elm St., PO Box 867  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
573-751-9206**

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[housing@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:housing@dmh.mo.gov)

